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OCT #12

Fantastic Four

HEROES REUNITED

PART 1 OF 4

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THE Stan Lee FANTASTIC FOUR

DOOMSDAY!

NEW YORK CITY.

WHILE APPEARING TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A NONDESCRIPT OFFICE BUILDING IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN, THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE DARKEST CENTERS OF INTERNATIONAL POWER.

IT IS A PLACE WHERE ILLICIT ARMS DEALS HAVE BEEN BROKERED AND THE WILL OF JUST MEN BEEN BROKEN -- ALL IN THE NAME OF FORGING A TYRANT'S KINGDOM.

TODAY, HOWEVER, LATVERIA'S DARKEST CHAPTER WILL BEGIN TO UNFOLD...

WHOOOSH

...AS TWO ROOFTOP SECURITY ROBOTS ASSUME THEIR POSITION, A HIGH-TECH TRANSPORT SUDDENLY APPEARS OUT OF THIN AIR -- A RESULT OF A DEACTIVATED CLOAKING DEVICE!

IS EVERYTHING IN READINESS?

YES, SIRE.

AMBASSADOR DUBCEK IS AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

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HEROES REUNITED
PART 1 OF 4

VICTOR VON DOOM IS AS BRILLIANT AS HE IS BRUTAL.

AS THE ABSOLUTE RULER OF LATVERIA, HE IS PERHAPS THE MOST FEARED DICTATOR IN ALL THE WORLD...

STATUS REPORT!

...AS WELL AS THE MORTAL ENEMY OF FANTASTIC FOUR!

JUST PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL, REED RICHARDS AND HIS COMPATRIOTS ENGAGED IN A BATTLE AGAINST A SUPER-POWERED EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NAMED TERRAX IN CENTRAL PARK, SIRE.

TERRAX? INTERESTING.

CONTINUE.

LATEST REPORTS NOW CONFIRM THAT TERRAX HAS BEEN JOINED BY TWO ADDITIONAL EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ENTITIES.

DO ANY OF THEM MATCH THE *SILVER SURFER* ENTITY?

NEGATIVE, SIR.

VERY WELL. CONTINUE MONITORING THE SITUATION AND KEEP ME APPRISED OF ANY *CHANGES*.

YES, SIRE.

UNIT ALPHA-FOUR REPORTS THAT ASSEMBLY OF YOUR SIPHON SUIT IS COMPLETE.

EXCELLENT! THEN ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS SPRINGING THE TRAP!

VWWWSSH

EXCUSE ME, SIRE.

WHAT IS IT, DUBCEK?

I'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE FINAL COMPONENTS OF YOUR ***CHRONO-DISPLACEMENT DEVICE*** HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE BEING ***ASSEMBLED*** AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

VERY GOOD, DUBCEK.

THE PRIZE THAT SO NARROWLY ***ELUDED*** ME IN LATVERIA IS NOW ***WITHIN*** MY VERY ***GRASP!***

ALL THE ***PLAYERS*** ARE NOW ***ASSEMBLED!*** IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I SHALL SOON POSSESS THE ***GREATEST*** POWER OF ALL!

-- THE POWER COSMIC!

CENTRAL PARK.

THEY ARE THE DREADED HERALDS OF GALACTUS.

TERRAX, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

FIRELORD.

THESE EARTHLINGS DARED TO CHALLENGE ME TO COMBAT! NOW THEY MUST PAY THE PRICE WITH THEIR LIVES!

TERRAX.

THEY ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL. IT IS TIME TO DEPART.

PLASMA

TO THE MISFORTUNATE SOULS WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED THEM THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, THEY ARE THE HARBINGERS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

WHO'S SHE CALLIN' INCONSEQUENTIAL?

THE THING.

THE HUMAN TORCH.

TAKE IT EASY, BEN. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST HERE.

THE INVISIBLE WOMAN.

SUE'S RIGHT. IF THESE OTHER TWO ENTITIES ARE IMBUED WITH THE POWER COSMIC LIKE TERRAX THEN WE COULD VERY WELL BE IN WAY OVER OUR HEADS.

MR. FANTASTIC.

EXPOSED TO THE EFFECTS OF MYSTERIOUS COSMIC RAYS ON AN ILL-FATED JOURNEY INTO OUTER SPACE, REED RICHARDS, BEN GRIMM, SUE AND JOHNNY STORM WERE TRANSFORMED INTO THE

Fantastic Four!

THERE'S ONLY *ONE WAY* TO FIND OUT, REED! BESIDES, TERRAX WAS THE ONE WHO *STARTED* THIS WHOLE THING!

JOHNNY! *WAIT!*

THE KID'S *RIGHT!* IT'S TIME WE COLLECTED SOME *PAYBACK* FROM CHROME-DOME!

HOLD ON, BEN! BELIEVE ME, OLD FRIEND, THERE'S *MORE* TO THIS THAN JUST SETTLING A *SCORE* WITH TERRAX!

GREETINGS, HERALD. MY NAME IS REED RICHARDS. I KNOW *WHY* YOU'VE COME TO THIS WORLD...

BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT MY FRIENDS AND I CANNOT *ALLOW* YOUR MASTER TO *COMPLETE* HIS TASK.

CURIOUS, I *SENSE* HIS COSMIC POWER WITHIN YOU AND YOUR COMRADES, EARTHLING.

BUT THAT WILL *NOT* BE ENOUGH TO *SAVE* YOU.

COME. IT IS TIME TO DEPART.

NO, I WILL NOT, PLASMA!

THESE BEINGS REPRESENT A THREAT TO OUR MASTER...

... AND MUST BE DESTROYED!

VRASH

WATCH OUT, BEN!

NO USE TALKING WITH HIM. REED/ TERRAX MAY HAVE STARTED THIS, BUT WE'RE SURE AS HECK GOING TO FINISH IT!

I'M WITH YA, JOHNNY!

IT'S GLOBBERIN' TIME!

KA-A-A-M

ARRGH!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON--?!

MY-- FLAMES-- →GLUB←!-- EXTINGUISHED-- →GLUB←!

WHEROOSH

WHILE FIRELORD AND I DO NOT SHARE TERRAX'S SENTIMENTS...

FEROOSH

...WE CANNOT STAND BY AND ALLOW YOU TO HARM HIM.

YEEOOW WOH!

JUST AS WE HAVE TO DO THE SAME FOR OUR FRIENDS!

THANKS, SUZIE!

KA THOOM

MOST IMPRESSIVE! A FORCE FIELD THAT CAN WITHSTAND MY AXE!

BUT ULTIMATELY *FUTILE!*

YOURS IS BUT A *PALE* REFLECTION OF THE POWER COSMIC THAT COURSES THROUGH *MY* BODY!

VRASH

SUE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

TOO -- MUCH -- POWER!

CAN'T MAINTAIN -- *UNNGH!*

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, EARTHLINGS. YOU ARE HOPELESSLY OUTMATCHED.

Oh NO! THOSE PEOPLE ARE CAUGHT IN THE LINE OF FIRE!

KRNCH KRACKLE AIIEE!

Huh ? WE -- WE'RE STILL ALIVE?!

DON'T WORRY! *I'LL* PROTECT YOU!

HOW *VERY* TOUCHING! BUT TELL ME --

NO!

WHO WILL SAVE *YOU?*

I SHALL SAVE HER, TERRAX!

VRAP

THE SILVER SURFER?!

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO HARM THESE EARTHLINGS WHOM I HAVE COME TO REGARD AS...

...MY FRIENDS!

YOU *SURVIVED* THE CATASTROPHE AT DOOM'S CASTLE/

FF#6 – Continuity Reborn.

YES. BUT ONLY WITH THE *HELP* OF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT I SHOULD *REPAY* YOUR ACT OF KINDNESS.

HEED MY WORDS, FELLOW HERALDS. THESE BEINGS ARE *NOT* OUR ENEMIES.

STAND ASIDE, SURFER!

THESE EARTHLINGS WOULD *SIDE* AGAINST OUR MASTER AND SO THEY *MUST* BE DESTROYED/

WHAT IS YOUR *BOND* WITH THIS SPECIES, SURFER?

THOUGH I WAS A STRANGER TO THEM, THESE FOUR EARTHLINGS SAVED MY LIFE, FIRELORD.

AND IF YOU WISH TO DO HARM UNTO THEM, TERRAX, THEN YOU SHALL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME.

FOOL! SO BE IT!

MY HERALDS! COME TO ME!

THE MASTER...

...HE SUMMONS US.

GRUMBLE YOUR FRIENDS ARE FORTUNATE INDEED, SURFER...

...FOR THEY WILL LIVE A BRIEF WHILE LONGER/

WHADDYA THINK HE MEANT BY THAT, STRETCH? AND *WHERE* ARE THEY TAKIN' OFF TO?

I... I DON'T *KNOW*, BEN.

BUT I FEAR THAT IT DOESN'T BODE WELL FOR US

SO YOU THINK THEY'LL BE BACK?

I'M NOT SURE, JOHNNY...

"... BUT IT DOES APPEAR AS THOUGH WE HAVE SOME OTHER UNEXPECTED GUESTS."

WHO IS IT, REED?

IT APPEARS TO BE A S.H.I.E.L.D. TRANSPORT SHIP

GREETINGS, REED RICHARDS. I AM ***THE COUNTESS*** AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, ***DUM-DUM DUGAN.***

DIRECTOR FURY WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

"THEN I GUESS WE'D BETTER GET GOING."

TO A SELECT GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, IT IS KNOWN AS THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELI-CARRIER.

A MASTERPIECE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, IT IS AN AIRBORNE MOBILE COMMAND CENTER THAT HAS THE ABILITY TO REACT TO ANY GLOBAL CRISIS AT THE MOMENT'S NOTICE.

WOTTA PIECE O' WORK, STRETCH.

I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D EVER BE BACK HERE AGAIN.

IT IS A TECHNICAL WONDER INDEED, BEN.

AND IF ***OUR*** PRESENCE IS REQUIRED HERE THEN THERE ***MUST*** BE A ***MAJOR CRISIS*** AFOOT.

THIS IS THE COUNTESS. INFORM THE DIRECTOR THAT WE HAVE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND ARE PREPARING TO DOCK.

ROGER THAT, COUNTESS. PROCEED TO HANGAR BAY ALPHA-ONE-NINER. THE DIRECTOR WILL BE EXPECTING YOU.

"WOULDYA LOOK AT THAT, STRETCH IT'S IRON MAN AND CAPTAIN AMERICA! FURY MUSTA CALLED UP THE AVENGERS!"

HELLO, BEN. I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR HERE.

IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO WORK WITH ALL YOU AGAIN.

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS AREA OF THE STATION

IT HOUSES OUR SPACE AFFAIRS BUREAU, Dr. RICHARDS.

SPACE AFFAIRS?

Ah, I SEE OUR OTHER GUESTS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.

ENDURER OF THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY RIGHT NOW, IT'S UP TO US TO SAVE THE WORLD AGAIN.

SO WHAT'S THE STORY, NICK?

THAT'S WHAT I NEED YOUR THINK-TANK FRIEND TO TELL ME, GRIMM.

OUR SATELLITE SENSORS WERE TRACKING THE FOUR E T S TAKIN' OFF FROM EARTH WHEN THEY SUDDENLY DETECTED THIS MASSIVE ENERGY SIGNATURE JUST PAST THE ORBIT OF THE MOON

PROBLEM IS, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS

"SO WE SENT OUT SOME PROBES TO CHECK IT OUT."

THERE/ THEY'RE APPROACHING THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE ENERGY SIGNATURE

TALK TO ME, DUM-DUM.

CONTACT IN FIVE...FOUR... THREE...TWO... ONE --

THEY'VE HIT SOMETHING/

SOME SORT OF FORCE FIELD/

NICK/ ONE OF THEM MADE IT THROUGH.

GETTING A VISUAL --

"GREAT BALLS O' FIRE/"

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, DUM-DUM.

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT SPHERE! THE LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED MUST BE INCREDIBLE!

NOW THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT REPRESENTS A FRIEND OR FOE

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT REAL SOON, GENTS.

'CAUSE ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST TELEMETRY...

...THAT THING IS HEADED STRAIGHT FOR EARTH/

WITHIN THE STAR SPHERE.

HEAR ME, MY HERALDS. THE TIME HAS COME TO HARVEST TERRA PRIME.

BEGIN ALL THE NECESSARY PREPARA-TIONS.

MASTER, I SHALL ASK YOU ONCE MORE .

...CAN WE NOT SPARE THIS WORLD?

Eh?

AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, MY HUNGER WILL BE SATED BY THE BIO-SPHERIC ENERGIES OF THIS PLANET.

NOW GO AND PREPARE THE WAY.

YES, MASTER

BY YOUR COMMAND, MASTER.

BY YOUR COMMAND, MASTER.

BY YOUR COMMAND

BY YOUR COMMAND, MASTER

BY YOUR COMMAND, MASTER.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, HERALD?

NO MASTER I HEAR AND OBEY

AFTER ANALYZING ALL THE DATA THAT I'VE ASSIMILATED ABOUT THE SILVER SURFER, THE MOLE MAN, THE SKRULL, AS WELL AS THE INHUMANS, I'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT THEY'RE ALL TIED TOGETHER WITH THE ENTITY KNOWN AS GALACTUS, THE GREAT DEVOURER.

SO WHAT ARE YOUR CONCLUSIONS, Dr RICHARDS?

QUITE POSSIBLY... ...THE END OF THE WORLD, BLACK PANTHER.

COLONEL FURY, I'M PICKING UP SOME UNUSUAL ACTIVITY FROM THE BOGEY!

GOOD LORD! THE SPHERE IS OPENING UP!

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT'S THAT CONTRAPTION COMING OUT OF IT?

WHATEVER IT IS, SIR, IT'S BREAKING UP INTO FOUR DIFFERENT COMPONENT PARTS...

...WITH MULTIPLE TRAJECTORIES! THE COMPUTER IS STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE THE POINTS OF IMPACT --

I'D BE WILLING TO WAGER THAT THEY'RE HEADED FOR ATTILAN, MONSTER ISLAND AND NEW YORK CITY.

SO WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT, STRETCH?

WE CAN'T JUST *STAND AROUND* HERE *TWIDDLIN'* OUR THUMBS!

BEN'S *RIGHT!* WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO *STOP* THEM.

I'M GOING TO ATTILAN TO DO WHAT I CAN FOR THE INHUMANS

IF WE'RE GOIN' TO FIGHT BACK THEN LET'S DO IT RIGHT! SO YOU *GO AHEAD* AND *WARN* THE INHUMANS, KID.

THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO NEED A TEAM OF PEOPLE TO ARRANGE A LITTLE WELCOMING PARTY ON MONSTER ISLAND.

THE AVENGERS WILL PITCH IN, COLONEL FURY. IRON MAN, SCARLET WITCH, WASP, ANTMAN AND I WILL PROCEED TO THE ISLAND IN OUR QUINJET...

... THE REMAINDER OF THE TEAM WILL STAY HERE IN NEW YORK CITY.

REED, BEN AND MYSELF ALONG WITH THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALSO REMAIN IN THE CITY TO HELP THE AVENGERS

IT WOULD BE MY HONOR

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO, RICHARDS?

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON AN ENERGY NULLIFIER THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US AGAINST GALACTUS AND HIS HERALDS.

IF YOU CAN JUST PROVIDE ME WITH A COMPUTER TERMINAL AND THE NECESSARY HARDWARE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE IT HERE, ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER.

"YOU GOT IT, DOC."

HOW'RE YOU FEELING, WANDA?

MORE THAN A LITTLE NERVOUS, IRON MAN. DO YOU REALLY THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE OF STOPPING THIS GALACTUS?

AS LONG AS WE STICK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

PERHAPS I SHOULD GO BACK WITH YOU AND BEN.

YOU HAVE WORK TO FINISH HERE, DARLING. BESIDES THERE'S NO NEED TO BE WORRIED; WE'LL BE FINE.

I — I'M MORE NERVOUS THAN I AM WORRIED.

NERVOUS? ABOUT WHAT?

ASKING YOU TO BE MY WIFE. WILL YOU MARRY ME, SUE?

Oh, REED. OF COURSE I WILL.

HATE TA BREAK UP THIS LITTLE BIG RED LOVE-FEST...

...BUT THIS TRAIN'S PULLIN' OUTTA THE STATION!

JOHNNY'S RIGHT/ THE *ONLY* THING WE *CAN* DO IS *FIGHT BACK!*

IT'S UP TO *US* TO SAVE ATTILAN!

"WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE, BLACK BOLT/"

WHAT IS THIS? ENSNARED BY COILS OF *ANIMATE* HAIR?

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL *SIMPLY* HAVE TO DO BETTER.

AAGH! BLINDING -- LIGHT/

VROOF!

NOW *FEEL* THE TERRIBLE MIGHT OF MY *FIRE-STAFF!*

WATCH OUT, CRYSTAL. THAT WAS *TOO CLOSE!*

WE JUST CAN'T KEEP *EVADING* HIM, JOHNNY/ BUT THERE JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY WAY OF *STOPPING* HIM EITHER.

THAT'S *IT*, CRYSTAL/ HE'S *NOT* THE KEY!

WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO IS DESTROY OR *DISABLE* THE CAPACITOR BEFORE IT CAN *COMPLETE* ITS *TASK!*

MEANWHILE... HALF A WORLD AWAY IN THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS.

HERALD.

YES, MASTER?

REPORT.

THE CAPACITOR HAS BEEN *IMPLANTED* AND IS NOW PROCESSING THE PLANET'S BIO-SPHERIC ENERGY.

IT SHALL ALL BE *OVER* VERY *SOON*, MASTER.

IT'S *NOT OVER YET*, FIRELORD.

BE *CAREFUL*, JOHNNY!

THIS GUY MAY BE SOME *RELIGIOUS ICON* TO YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, CRYSTAL

BUT TO *ME*, HE'S JUST THE *ERRAND* BOY OF AN *INTERSTELLAR MONSTER!*

IF WE'RE GOING TO SAVE ATTILAN AND THE REST OF THE WORLD THEN IT'S *UP* TO *US* TO *STOP* HIM *HERE* AND *NOW!*

HEAR ME, SERVANT OF THE *GREAT DEVOURER! LEAVE* THIS PLACE OR WE, *THE INHUMANS*, SHALL BE FORCED TO TAKE *ARMS AGAINST YOU.*

TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST A GOD?

HEED MY WORDS, CHILDREN OF GALACTUS. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.

WHEN THE MASTER IS FINISHED HARVESTING THIS WORLD, ALL OF YOU, HIS CHILDREN, SHALL BECOME ONE WITHIN HIM/

THEN THE LEGENDS ARE TRUE/ THE END IS NEAR/

HE IS INDEED THE HARBINGER OF DOOM/ THE GREAT DEVOURER HAS COME AT LAST/

FWOOSH

SNAP OUT OF IT, YOU GUYS/ YOU'RE MAKING THIS *TOO EASY* FOR THEM/

DON'T *GIVE UP* WITHOUT A FIGHT/

JOHNNY?/

YOUR COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS QUITE ADMIRABLE...

...BUT A FUTILE EFFORT NONETHELESS.

ARGH!

YOUR FLAME IS SIMPLY NO MATCH FOR THE COSMIC FURY OF A LIVING STAR.

BLACK BOLT/ THE TRESPASSER'S INFERNAL DEVICE IS SHATTERING THE MOUNTAINS/

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

MONSTER ISLAND.

PLASMA!

YES, MASTER?

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR *TASK?*

ALMOST, MASTER. THE CAPACITOR HAS BEEN *IMPLANTED.*

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO *ACTIVATE* THE DEVICE AND THEN THE *FINAL HARVESTING* CAN *BEGIN* --

NAY, HERALD! THE SON OF ODIN *SHALL NOT ALLOW IT!*

SO YOU WOULD SEEK TO *STOP* ME, *EARTHLINGS?* I'M AFRAID YOU *DON'T* POSSESS THE NECESSARY *POWER.*

WITH *PRINCE NAMOR* FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS, YOU MAY BE IN FOR QUITE A *SURPRISE,* PLASMA.

THEN LET US NOT WASTE *ANY MORE* WORDS!

SO *BE IT!*

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

THAT'S MY CUE!

VREEEE

KEEP HER OFF-BALANCE UNTIL WE'VE *DISABLED* THAT DEVICE!

LET'S *SEE* IF ONE OF MY *HEX SPELLS* CAN -- EH?

SO, MORE SURFACE DWELLERS DARE TO *TRESPASS* UPON THE *MOLEMAN'S DOMAIN!*

THE PRICE FOR SUCH FOLLY SHALL BE YOUR LIFE --

KATOOM

AARGH!

THINK *AGAIN*, MOLEMAN.

THE REST O' THEM ARE ALL *YOURS*, WANDA.

SHRAAKK

THANK YOU, HAWKEYE!

LET'S SEE HOW THAT *LITTLE MEGALOMANIAC* AND HIS MINIONS STAND UP TO *SOME MAGIC!*

THOU ART *OUTMATCHED*, PLASMA! *SURRENDER!*

NEVER! I HEED ONLY THE *WORD* OF *MY MASTER!*

THEN *MJOLNIR* SHALL *SPEAK* FOR ME!

CLANG

THE FINAL BLAST SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HER!

VRRR

IRON MAN -- NO!

"YOU HAVE *THROWN* HER *AGAINST THE CAPACITOR!*"

AND SEALED *YOUR DOOM*, EARTHLING!

NOT SO LONG AS THE *SOD OF THUNDER* CAN *SMITE* THEE WITH A *BOLT* OF LIGHTNING!

KRAK

BLACK BOLT, DID YOU *HEAR* WHAT -- uh-oh/

I GUESS, HE *DID!*

VMN

MMM

STAND BACK! OUR VAUNTED LEADER DOTH PREPARE TO USE HIS *MIGHTY POWER!*

THE SOUND THAT COMES FORTH FROM BLACK BOLT'S MOUTH IS BARELY THE SOUND OF A WHISPER...

...AND YET IT POSSESSES MORE THAN SUFFICIENT ENERGY TO DESTROY THE BIO-SPHERIC CAPACITOR!

YOU *DID IT,* BLACK BOLT. THE DEVICE IS DESTROYED.

BUT ALL THAT *STORED* ENERGY IS NOW HEADED DIRECTLY *THIS WAY!*

JOHNNY! YOU MUST TRY AND *ESCAPE* BEFORE IT'S *TOO* --!

NO WAY, CRYSTAL.

I'M *STAYING* HERE WITH YOU TILL THE *END.*

EVEN IF WE DIE AT LEAST NOW THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL HAVE A CHANCE.

TOO LATE! THE DEVICE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED!

WE'VE GOT TO SHUT IT OFF!

MY SHIELD CAN'T CAUSE ENOUGH DAMAGE!

THE DEVICE IS TEARING APART THE ENTIRE ISLAND!

WE HAVE ONLY ONE HOPE OF DESTROYING IT!

I SHALL USE THE DEPTHS OF A NEARBY OCEAN TRENCH TO CRUSH THE DEVICE!

NAMOR! WAIT!

YOU MAY NOT SURVIVE THE ENERGY IMPLOSION AT THAT DEPTH.

DESCENDING INTO THE DARK WATERS, NAMOR KNEW THE RISKS INVOLVED IN HIS MOMENT OF VALOR

COLONEL, THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. . . BUT WE LOST *NAMOR.*

SO FAR, WE'RE TWO FOR TWO, CAP. THAT JUST LEAVES THE LAST BATTLE HERE IN THE BIG APPLE. WE'LL SEE YOU SOON.

UNDER-STOOD. WE'RE ON OUR WAY

PREPARE THYSELVES, AVENGERS, AS I CREATE A ***PORTAL*** WITH THE POWER OF MJOLNIR

LATER. ATOP THE AVENGERS MANSION.

I CAN BARELY SEE THEM UP IN THE SKY.

THEY LOOK LIKE SPECKS WAY UP THERE.

HEY, NICK! HOW'RE YOU AND YER MEN HOLDIN' UP?

"DON'T ASK, GRIMM.

"WE'RE THE *ONE-LEGGED MAN* IN THE *BUTT-KICKING* CONTEST.

"I DON'T THINK GALACTUS EVEN *KNOWS* WE'RE HERE. CAN'T GET *ANYTHING* PAST HIS FORCE FIELD.

"AS FER THE HERALDS, THEY'RE WREAKING *HAVOC* WITH THE *ATTACK SHIPS*.

"THE SILVER SURFER SEEMS TO BE KEEPIN' *HIS* NOSE CLEAN...

"...BUT TERRAX IS *TEARIN'* US UP/ HE'S *ENJOYIN'* THE *SLAUGHTER!*"

"SO WHAT'RE YA GOIN' TA DO, NICK?"

IT'S TIME I REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED SOMEONE!

FIRE THE PLASMA CANNONS!

"LET'S SEE IF THIS'LL GET HIS ATTENTION/"

FAZZAAMM

"NO DICE! HIS FORCE FIELD JUST *NEUTRALIZED* THE ATTACK/"

"Uh, COLONEL FURY? I THINK WE GOT HIS ATTENTION. HE — HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY! SENSORS ARE PICKING UP AN ENERGY BUILD-UP/

"HE'S *ATTACKING*, COLONEL/

UUUMMM

"*RED ALERT! RED ALERT!* WE HAVE A BREACH IN THE OUTER AND INNER HULLS OF THE SHIP/ EXPERIENCING EXPLOSIVE DECOMPRESSION IN MULTIPLE SECTORS/"

"STOP YER YAPPIN', REYNOLDS, AND JUST GIVE ME THE *FINAL* DAMAGE REPORT/"

THE REACTOR CORE HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED, COLONEL/ THERE'S A RUPTURE IN THE CONTAINMENT SHELL/

ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES BEFORE IT GOES CRITICAL/

YOU DID IT, Dr. RICHARDS/ THE NULLIFIER WORKS/

IT STILL NEEDS TO BE FIELD TESTED BUT --

VVZZZNNN

-- WHY ARE THOSE KLAXONS SOUNDING?

IT MEANS WE'RE ALL OUTTA TIME, RICHARDS/

SO GRAB YOUR DOOHICKEY THERE AND THE TWO OF YOU FOLLOW ME/

YES, SIR/

I DON'T UNDER-STAND. WHAT'S HAPPENING?

TRUST ME, DOC. YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

YEAH. GET TO SAFETY...

...AND MAKE SURE THAT CONTRAPTION OF YOURS WORKS/

GOODBYE, RICHARDS/

KLIK

AND GOOD LUCK/

BOOM

GOOD LUCK TO YOU TOO, NICK.

WAIT, THE HELI-CARRIER!

IT'S HOVERING JUST ABOVE GALACTUS' STARSHIP!

WE'VE LOST ALL OUR STRIKE SHIPS AND THE ENTIRE ON-BOARD WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE OFF-LINE, NICK.

THEN WE'RE FINISHED HERE, COUNTESS.

GIVE THE GENERAL ORDER TO ABANDON SHIP.

AND GET YOURSELF ABOARD ONE OF THOSE LIFE PODS, COUNTESS.

NICK? WHAT ABOUT --

COLONEL! SENSORS ARE PICKING UP ANOTHER BOGEY HEADED FOR NEW YORK! IT COULD BE ANOTHER HERALD!

AND I'M ALL OUT OF BULLETS -- WAITAMINUTE!

REYNOLDS, GET OUTTA HERE AND ONTO ONE O' THE LIFE PODS!

THIS OLD DOG MAY HAVE ONE LAST TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE!

"NICK, THE LAST OF THE CREW IS SAFELY AWAY!

"INSTRUMENTS SAY THE REACTOR IS NEARLY AT CRITICAL MASS. IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO."

TAKE THE *LAST* POD FOR *YERSELF*, COUNTESS.

I -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THIS MAY BE OUR *BEST* AND *ONLY* SHOT AT GALACTUS. *I'VE* GOT TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END. BUT THERE'S NO REASON FOR *YOU* TO STAY.

YES, THERE *IS*, NICK. I *WON'T* LET YOU DO THIS *ALONE*.

YOU'RE... ...A *BRAVE* WOMAN, COUNTESS. THANK YOU.

YOU WOULD'VE DONE *NO LESS* FOR *ME*.

YA GOT A *POINT* THERE.

WE COULD HAVE MADE A *WONDERFUL* COUPLE.

IN *ANOTHER* LIFE, COUNTESS. IN ANOTHER *LIFE*.

GOOD LORD! THE *HELI-CARRIER* --

-- IT'S ON A *COLLISION* COURSE WITH *GALACTUS!*

NICK!

KRAA

HOOM

REED!

THE HELI-CARRIER -- IT -- IT'S GONE.

BUT IT TOOK A BIG CHUNK OF GALACTUS' SHIP WITH IT!

Oh REED...

IT... IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, Ms. STORM.

LOOK, I'M SURE THE DOC WAS ON ONE OF THOSE LIFE PODS.

HAWKEYE DOTH SPEAK THE TRUTH, SUE STORM. REED RICHARDS IS ALIVE AND ON HIS WAY HERE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

REALLY? THANK YOU, THOR. THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS.

THEN I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR THE BAD NEWS, PEOPLE! TAKE A LOOK OVER THERE!

IT CAN'T BE! GALACTUS IS STILL ALIVE!

YEA! THE MONSTER HATH SURVIVED THE FURY OF AN ATOMIC MAELSTROM!

"BUT WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?"

"LOOK, SUE/ OVER THERE/ THE SKYSCRAPERS IN MANHATTAN ARE BEING TORN APART."

"WAIT. GALACTUS ISN'T JUST DESTROYING THEM, HAWKEYE. HE'S EXTRACTING THE METAL AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS FROM THEM.

"AND HE'S DRAWING IT ALL --

"-- TO HIMSELF."

"BUT TO WHAT PURPOSE, SUE STORM?"

"TO RECONSTRUCT HIS STARSHIP, THOR. HE'S USING ALL THAT RAW MATERIAL TO REPLACE THE PARTS LOST IN THE COLLISION WITH THE HELI-CARRIER/

ALL THOSE LIVES...

... SACRIFICED IN VAIN.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, Dr. RICHARDS? HOW DO WE STOP GALACTUS FROM DESTROYING THE EARTH?

FORTUNATELY, COLONEL FURY MAY HAVE BOUGHT US SOME PRECIOUS TIME BY DAMAGING ONE OF GALACTUS' DEVICES.

BUT AS WE'VE ALL SEEN, HE'S ALREADY REBUILDING THE COMPONENT, WHICH I'VE COME TO CONCLUDE IS SOME SORT OF ELEMENTAL CONVERTER.

AN ELEMENTAL CONVERTER?

YES, DARLING. THE DEVICE IS DESIGNED TO CONVERT THE EARTH'S LIFE FORCE INTO A FORM OF ENERGY THAT GALACTUS CAN CONSUME.

CONSUME THE EARTH'S LIFE FORCE? BUT HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

I BELIEVE THE CAPACITORS SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE EARTH ARE GIGANTIC TRANSFORMER-CONDUITS THAT ABSORB THE PRECIOUS BIO-SPHERIC ENERGY OF OUR PLANET...

... AND CHANNEL IT INTO GALACTUS' ELEMENTAL CONVERTER, FINALLY TO BE DEVOURED BY HIM.

WHEN THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETE, OUR WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED.

OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO DESTROY ALL THE CAPACITORS...

... AS WELL AS HIS ELEMENTAL CONVERTER BEFORE GALACTUS HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACTIVATE THEM.

THEN WHAT'RE WE DOIN' JUST SITTIN' HERE ON OUR KEESTERS, STRETCH?

TIME TA STRAP THIS NULLIFIER-CONTRAPTION ON ME...

... AND GET BUSY SAVIN' THE WORLD!

HAVE ALL THE CAPACITORS BEEN DISABLED?

THE NOBLE SUBMARINER DID ***SACRIFICE*** HIMSELF TO DESTROY THE MECHANISM WE FOUND ON MONSTER ISLAND.

WE GOT CONFIRMATION THAT THE ONE IN THE HIMALAYAS WAS DESTROYED, BUT --

-- NO WORD FROM THE HUMAN TORCH.

I... I'M SORRY, SUE. THERE MAY STILL BE A CHANCE...

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, REED. JOHNNY UNDERSTOOD THE RISKS INVOLVED

I'LL MOURN FOR HIM...

...AFTER WE DEFEAT GALACTUS.

TRASH!

WHILE YOU CAN, EARTHLING! FOR THERE WILL BE ***NO ONE LEFT*** TO GRIEVE THE DEMISE OF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AFTER GALACTUS HAS FED UPON YOUR WORLD!

IT'S ***TERRAX!*** HE RIPPED THROUGH THE ROOF WITH JUST A ***SWING*** OF HIS ***AXE!***

I'M TELLIN' YA, HAWKEYE! I AIN'T SURE IF THAT YAHOO'S ***BARK*** IS A WHOLE LOT ***WORSE*** THAN HIS ***BITE!***

UNGGH!

BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I AM CERTAIN OF --

-- IT'S THAT HE'S GONNA BE FEELIN' SOME PAIN!

LET'S JUST SEE HOW BAD YA REALLY ARE, TERRAX, WHEN YA GOTTA GOES TOE-TO-TOE AGAINST THE EVER-LOVIN' THING!

WHAM

AARGH!

WHAT I SHALL DO IS SEE YOU DIE AS I SLICE YOU IN TWO --

YEEO

IMPOSSIBLE! YOU -- YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!

CRASH

HOLD ON, BEN!

OVER THERE, DOC! THE SILVER SURFER'S PUTTING DOWN THE LAST CAPACITOR!

WHADDYA KNOW? REED'S CONTRAPTION WORKED!

IT NEUTRALIZED THE COSMIC ENERGY IN YOUR AXE!

'COURSE, THAT MEANS YOU'RE IN A WORLD O' TROUBLE NOW!

WHAM

AARGH!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO DISABLE IT, HAWKEYE.

OUR BEST SHOT MAY BE TO TRY AND CUT ONE OF THE FEEDER LINES AND SHORT-CIRCUIT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

YOU GOT IT, DOC/

LET'S SEE IF ONE OF MY DETON-ARROWS CAN DO THE JOB/

"BINGO/ RIGHT ON THE MONEY—/

BOOM

"BUT NOT A SCRATCH ON IT/"

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A BIGGER BANG, DOC.

BUT I'M ALL OUT OF TOYS.

DO NOT DESPAIR, HAWKEYE/

MJOLNIR SHALL COMPLETE THE TASK/

KRAKA

AND THE GOD OF THUNDER IS TRUE TO HIS WORD AS HIS MYSTICAL HAMMER FINDS ITS INTENDED TARGET.

THAT TAKES CARE O' TERRAX.

HOLD IT! THERE'S THE MONSTER O' THE HOUR HIMSELF!

JUST MAYBE REED'S NULLIFIER CONTRAPTION WILL WORK ON GALACTUS HIMSELF!

ONLY ONE WAY TA FIND OUT!

FWAP

C'MON, BIG GUY! LET'S DANCE!

NUTS! THE BACKPACK JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH JUICE TA NEUTRALIZE ALL THE COSMIC POWER INSIDE GALACTUS!

PERHAPS THE POWER OF MJOLNIR CAN HELP THEE!

GIVE IT A SHOT, GOLDILOCKS!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET THE JOLLY GIANT'S ATTENTION.

THE TWO HEROES DO THAT...

...AND MUCH MORE.

HE DOTH STRIKE BACK!

TOO MUCH -- FEED BACK!

AND WHILE CERTAIN RESULTS ARE PREDICTABLE...

...OTHERS ARE NOT.

UNNH! HEY... GOLDILOCKS, YOU... ALL RIGHT?

BODY .. TINGLING... ALL OVER!

FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THE MASTER TURNED YOUR OWN WEAPON AGAINST YOU! INSTEAD OF ABSORBING HIS POWER, IT TOOK YOUR OWN.

REVERTING YOU BACK TO YOUR HUMAN STATE

LEAVING YOU HELPLESS!

NO! IT CAN'T BE!

NOT LIKE THIS! NOT NOW!

HEED MY WORD, TERRAX!

WHILE HE MAY NO LONGER POSSESS HIS SUPER POWERS, BEN GRIMM DOES NOT STAND ALONE!

NOT AS LONG AS THE BLACK PANTHER IS THERE TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE HIM!

THEN YOU ARE THE BIGGER FOOL!

FOR AS THE MASTER OF EARTH AND ROCK...

I -- I AM RESTRAINED BY THE VERY GROUND!

PANTHER! NO!

I CAN EASILY SLAY BOTH OF YOU --

-- WITH A SINGLE BLOW!

KRUNCH

BEN! T'CHALLA!

TERRAX -- HE -- HE'S KILLED THEM!

WE'VE GOT TO GO, DARLING! THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR THEM.

LOOK, REED! THE CONVERTER HAS BEEN ACTIVATED! BUT HOW?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE DESTROYED ALL OF GALACTUS' CAPACITORS.

THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE WRONG, EARTHLING!

YOU SEE, THERE WERE FOUR OF THEM.

"BUT AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR PRECIOUS HELI-CARRIER, YOU COULDN'T KNOW THAT THE MASTER'S FOURTH HERALD, AIRWALKER...

"...HAD IMPLANTED AND ACTIVATED THE LAST REMAINING CAPACITOR ON THE BODY OF LAND LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN MAGNETIC POLE OF YOUR PLANET!"

THEREBY COMPLETING OUR MASTER'S PLAN!

SOON, GALACTUS WILL CONSUME YOUR PLANET'S VERY LIFE FORCE...

...BUT NOT BEFORE I HAVE TAKEN YOUR LIVES!

AAARGH!

WHILE I MAY NOT POSSESS THE POWER TO STOP OUR MASTER --

-- I CAN STOP YOU, TERRAX!

THANK YOU, MY FRIEND/ BUT WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO DISABLE THE ELEMENTAL CONVERTER AND PREVENT GALACTUS FROM ABSORBING YOUR WORLD'S BIO-SPHERIC ENERGY!

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME?

GO AND DO WHAT YOU CAN/ I SHALL DEAL WITH TERRAX/

YOU'RE RIGHT/ WE HAVE GOT TO TRY -- Eh?/

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

FULFILLING MY DESTINY, RICHARDS/

VICTOR?/ YOU MUST HELP US/ THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE EARTH IS AT STAKE!

DOOM NEEDS NO ONE!

FOR YOU SEE, I AM HERE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS WORLD AS ITS RIGHTFUL RULER!

WITH THIS SIPHON SUIT, I SHALL ABSORB THE COSMIC ENERGIES OF THE SILVER SURFER AND TERRAX FOR MY OWN!

YES! SUCH GLORIOUS POWER/ COURSING THROUGH MY BODY!

POWER ENOUGH...

...TO CHALLENGE THEIR MASTER/ TO SUCCEED --

"REED/ IS IT POSSIBLE?/"

-- WHERE YOU HAVE FAI-- UUNNGH!

VRASH

"NO, DARLING. HIS NEWFOUND AMBITION MERELY BLINDED VICTOR TO HIS OWN WEAKNESSES.

"BUT A COMBINATION OF VICTOR'S SUIT AND MY OWN ENERGY NULLIFIER COULD HOLD THE KEY TO DEFEATING GALACTUS/"

THEN WE'D BETTER HOPE THAT MEGALOMANIAC'S STILL ALIVE.

REED, HAWKEYE AND I WILL TRY TO DISABLE THE CONVERTER WHILE YOU AND VICTOR PATCH TOGETHER THAT DEVICE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT/

I WON'T LEAVE YOU --

IT'S THE ONLY WAY. NOW GO!

I LOVE YOU.

"AND I LOVE YOU, MY DARLING. YOU KNOW, AFTER THIS, OUR WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS WILL SEEM LIKE CHILD'S PLAY."

VICTOR/ CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I...AM... ALIVE/

LISTEN TO ME, VICTOR. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME AND THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE/

OUR ONLY CHANCE OF DEFEATING GALACTUS IS TO COMBINE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF MY ENERGY NULLIFIER WITH THOSE OF YOUR SIPHON SUIT.

YES. I UNDERSTAND, RICHARDS.

IT WOULD WORK.

BUT DOOM NEEDS NO ONE/ I WILL NOT SHARE MY GLORY WITH YOU/

VRRRMMMM

DON'T BE A FOOL, VICTOR! THIS ISN'T TIME TO --

GOOD LORD! WE'RE TOO LATE!

GALACTUS HAS ACTIVATED THE ELEMENTAL CONVERTER!

REED!

SUE!

CURSE YOU, VICTOR! YOU'VE CONDEMNED US ALL!

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR ETERNAL SOU--

RICHARDS!

VRAAP

THE WORLD IS TRULY COMING TO AN END! MUST ACTIVATE THE CHRONO-DISPLACEMENT MACHINE WHILE THERE'S STILL TI--

AS THE FIERY CONFLAGRATION OF BIO-SPHERIC ENERGY SPEWS FORTH FROM THE ELEMENTAL CONVERTER AND CONSUMES THE ENTIRE GLOBE, VICTOR VON DOOM MAKES HIS ESCAPE...

...JUST AS THE EARTH DIES!

TO BE CONTINUED (?) IN AVENGERS #12!